

reproducing a signal recorded on said recording layer by irradiating a laser beam to said recording layer and detecting a light strength of a reflection light or a transmitted light from said recording layer;

wherein said barrier layer is formed between said protective layer and said recording layer and in contact with said protective layer and said recording layer, and includes one of GeN and GeNO and at least one element selected from the group consisting of Al, B, Ba, Bi, C, Ca, Ce, Cr, Dy, Eu, Ga, Hf, In, K, La, Mn, Nb, Ni, Pb, Pd, Si, Sn, Ta, Ti, V, W, Yb, Zn, and Zr.

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